

**Nibbles:** In this issue of Nibbles our feature article on "History Makers of the Anglesea & District Historical Society" features Allan Poigndester, life member. Our blast from the past is a short article by Lindsay Braden on how, when doing historical research, one thing can lead to another. But first of all the quiz which this month is about Australian Prime Ministers.

**Quiz:** Try your luck at these questions. The answers are at the end of this issue (no peeking).

- Q.1.** Who was our first Prime Minister?  
**Q.2.** Who was the youngest person to become our Prime Minister?  
**Q.3.** Who was the oldest person to become our Prime Minister?  
**Q.4.** Which Prime Minister served the longest term?

- Q.5.** Which Prime Minister served the shortest term?  
**Q.6.** Which Prime Ministers died whilst in office?  
**Q.7.** Which Prime Ministers have been replaced by their parties whilst in office?  
**Q.8.** Which Prime Ministers lost their seats at a Federal election?

## History Makers of the Anglesea & District Historical Society

### Allan Poigndester



Allan Poigndester was born on 15 November 1941 at East Melbourne, son of John (Jack) and Doris Poigndester, brother of John and Dawn (Hollibone). He attended Tottenham State School at West Footscray, and Sunshine Boys Technical School.

When Allan left school, he first worked in a bottle recycling yard in Footscray and later for Pearl Cement Products. It was while working there that he had a retina detachment, that left him blind in one eye.

In 1953 Allan's father bought two blocks of land in what is now Wray Street. Allan came to live permanently in Anglesea in 1964. He began his tree lopping business in 1966 using a grey Fergie loader and a Stihl chain saw. He would climb a tree without any spurs and tie a rope around his waist. With his chain saw he would cut the branch off. He later purchased a Bedford travel tower in Brisbane and drove it back to Anglesea. Other equipment he purchased was a Blitz crane truck and a Muir Hill loader.

Allan achieved many things when he had sight. He and his Dad travelled around Australia in his Land Rover. He assisted Arthur McLean to relocate the Forestry houses when the land was purchased by Alcoa. He purchased a house at 15 Noble Street and renovated it. He demolished the Eastern View Arch with help from Elliot's Cranes from Geelong. He then helped erect the new arch across the Great Ocean Road. The Anglesea Fire Brigade was another of Allan's community services. He belonged to the Fire Brigade for nine years. As he was self-employed, he was able to drop what he was doing at any time and attend a fire.

Allan has been associated with the Anglesea and District Historical Society since it started. He told Lindsay Braden many stories about Anglesea. Lindsay wrote about them in the Society's newsletters. Allen also did a lot of work for Joan Cameron-Murch over the years. He has worked with Jim and Edith Lawn and Shirley Forsyth as they worked for the Historical Society.

In 1982 Allan was tree lopping in Aireys Inlet when everything suddenly went black and he couldn't see. His 16 year old nephew David Hollibone was working with him. David, who was not old enough to drive legally, drove him home. He had suffered a retina detachment in his other eye so had lost his sight permanently.

Allan purchased the house on 1 Wray Street from the Education Department and moved it to land he had bought at 1250 Great Ocean Road, Bellbrae, where he still lives today. Allan is amazing the way he feels everything and works out where things are and keeps himself occupied. He is now 83 years old. Allan has

donated many items over the years to the Historical Society museum, including his mother's old wooden ice-chest and the petrol bowser from his brother in laws truck yard. Allan has been awarded a life member of the Anglesea & District Historical Society.

**Jan Morris**

**A Blast from the Past by Lindsay Braden (April 1999)**

Some years ago I was fortunate enough to travel along the coast to Eastern View with Ray Clarke. He reminisced how they walked along the beach from their far away farm to attend the Aireys School, before the Great Ocean Road was built. Through winter George Noble would come out each day from 'Angahook' homestead, and row them across the flooded stream in a clinker boat. *Ray even showed me the exact spot where they traversed.*

During March that year our Society had an inquiry regarding the Berthon family at Aireys Inlet. Discussion led to the fact that an oil painting by Miss Lili Berthon was at the Geelong Art Gallery. After completing research on the family at the Geelong Records Centre, I called to the Art Gallery immediately next door – **'LILI WHO?'** asked a rather bored lass at the

**One thing leads to another**

reception desk. She picked up the intercom for details of the unknown. To her amazement there was such a painting. It hung only a short distance down the foyer !!

I liked Lili's seascape immediately – one could easily live with it on the lounge room wall. The painting (donated by George Belcher) was oil on cardboard and entitled 'Entrance to Aireys Inlet 1898.'



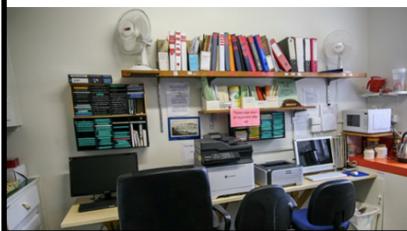
*But the thing that intrigued me* was that a clinker boat was depicted beached at the precise position mentioned by Ray Clarke. Surely this was the one later used to bring the school children across the flooded winter stream.

*There is no doubt that researching the past is like completing a jig-saw puzzle - one thing certainly leads to another – even the unexpected ■ -L.B*

**SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP MAY MEETING**

10.00am Thursday 8 May – entry free  
History House - Entrance 4 McMillan Street

Meeting Session: **In-house Resources**



- Find out about our
- Cemetery lists
  - School rolls
  - Birth, deaths & marriage records
  - Electoral rolls
  - Rate Books
  - Ancestry connection
  - Extensive library
  - Local histories
  - Microfiche

**ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Outing Wednesday 14 May 2025

**Tarndwarcoort (Tarndie), Birregurra**  
One of Victoria's oldest surviving homesteads



Owned by the Dennis family since 1840

Cost \$35, members \$30

- Guided tour
- Includes delicious afternoon tea at Tarndie
- Leaves History House 12.30
- Bookings essential  
Susan: 0438 070 560

Members & Visitors welcome

**ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2.00pm Sunday 1 June Anglesea Hotel Function Room

Topic: **History of Anglesea Hotel**

- Speakers: the Klein family and others
- Entrance – gold coin
- Free cuppa
- Raffle

Starting in 1886 as an unlicensed boarding house to the present day hotel.  
Member & Visitors welcome



**Answers to the Quiz:** Q.1 Edmund Barton Q.2 John Watson- Aged 37 Q.3 John McEwen - Aged 67 Q.4 Robert Menzies - 16 years 1 month 8 days Q.5 Frank Forde - 8 days. Q.6. Joseph Lyons, John Curtin, Harold Holt. Q.7 William Morris Hughes, Robert Menzies, John Gorton, Bob Hawke, Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull. Q.8. Stanley Bruce and John Howard.

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